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QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Progress report of the Secretary-General

1. In my last progress report (A/44/524), dated 14 September 1989, I recalled that, within the context of my efforts to facilitate a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, Indonesia and Portugal had agreed in principle that a delegation from the Portuguese Parliament would undertake a visit to the territory in order to obtain first-hand information. I further reported that the two sides were considering the terms of reference and modalities of such a visit.

2. Since then, there have been seven rounds of the substantive talks between Indonesia and Portugal under my auspices. These talks are continuing in a constructive and serious manner, and I am encouraged by the considerable progress that has been made so far. I have reassured the two sides that I will make every effort to assist them in the realization of the proposed visit, for it is my belief that this visit could help to create an atmosphere conducive to achieving a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution.

3. During the year, I and Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed, who has been assisting me in these endeavours, have continued our consultations with the two Governments. Discussions were held with the Portuguese President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and with the Indonesian President and Foreign Minister, as well as with other Indonesian Ministers. In July, I also addressed personal messages to the Presidents of Indonesia and Portugal. Both countries have given me assurances of their continued commitment to achieving a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question. I therefore hope that it will prove possible through continued consultation and negotiation to attain that goal.

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

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